

18.

A New Genus of Kaleege Pheasants.

MARQUESS HACHISUKA.

Delacourigallus gen. nov.

Gennaeus edwardsi Oustalet, 1896. Type, by original designation.

As far as we know at present, the new genus includes two distinct species of Kaleege pheasants known only from restricted ranges in Annam, *edwardsi* and *imperialis*. Until now they have been considered to be congeneric with *Hierophasis swinhoii* of Formosa, but the members of the new genus are much smaller than *H. swinhoii*; the wattles are much less developed and project very little beyond the outline of the head during display, while in *Hierophasis* they stick out vertically above and below the head. The tail in *Hierophasis* is more elongated, each feather becoming narrower and more pointed toward the end, the central pair, which is curved downward, being longer than the second. The female of the new genus is plain buffish or rufous brown, while in *Hierophasis* the chin is white and the underparts of the body are lighter than the upper; the entire body, including the central pair of tail feathers, is mottled and barred.

The general color pattern of the females in the new genus is extraordinarily similar to *Lobiophasis* and far more removed from *Hierophasis*.

Remarks: It is interesting to note that *Delacourigallus*, *Hierophasis* and *Lobiophasis* are alike in many important points. All the males have metallic blue and green scale-like feathers on the dorsal part of the body, steel blue being the predominating color. The cocks of *Hierophasis* have their tails partly white, while *Lobiophasis* cocks have entirely white tails. Both are chestnut brown during their early stage. Secondary sexual characters are developed in *Lobiophasis* on the wattle and the tail, while the general color pattern is well developed in *Hierophasis*. All three groups have the same wing formula: 4th, 5th and 6th primaries being about equal and the longest. The cocks of *Delacourigallus* resemble *Hierophasis*, although their color pattern is not so well developed, and the hen is

amazingly similar to that sex in *Lobiophasis*. When the hens of these two genera are compared, they show no sufficient generic differences. The hen *Lobiophasis* has 14 pairs of tail feathers while *Delacourigallus* has only 6 to 8 pairs. (I have only a limited number of aviary specimens and some have damaged tails). This difference has not more than specific importance, because we know that *Crossoptilon* has different numbers of tail feathers according to species. *Lobiophasis* has a blue, naked face, while in *Delacourigallus* it is red. This is only a specific character among *Gallus*. The feathers on the crown are slightly elongated in the female *Delacourigallus*, but not forming a crest; *Lobiophasis* has a normally feathered crown.

One can see clearly that *Lobiophasis*, one of the most peculiarly developed of all pheasants, is fundamentally quite close to *Delacourigallus*.

Geographically speaking, *Delacourigallus* lives in Annam, and the two allied genera on islands, *Hierophasis* in Formosa and *Lobiophasis* in Borneo. It is not difficult, therefore, to suppose that *Delacourigallus* is prototypic, and the other two developed into a larger, more ornate, type in distant insular localities.

We are further able to trace the affinity of *Delacourigallus* to *Gennaeus* and are sure that both have derived from a common ancestor.

For the ever-growing number of ornithologists who now prefer to adopt wide genera, *Delacourigallus* can be considered a subgenus of the genus *Gennaeus*, as well as its other allies: *Hierophasis*, *Lobiophasis*, *Diardigallus*, *Lophura* and *Houppifer*.

The generic name is given in honor of Jean Delacour, the rediscoverer of the Edwards' pheasant and the discoverer of the Imperial pheasant, who has also propagated these two species in his aviaries and made them well known to us by distributing them among zoological gardens in many parts of the world. The two pheasants included under the new genus are extremely rare in the wild state.

